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UA37/23 WHAS Broadcast No. 74

WHAS

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WHAS Broadcast No.74

Tuesday, January 11, 1938

3:30- 4:00 p.m.

From Extension Studio in Bowling Green

Strings and Voices "College Heights."

Moore Western Kentucky State Teachers College greets you
all both great and small with the words of our college
motto- - -

Voices Life More Life.

Moore Life More Life is our motto and our wish for all our
listeners.

Piano Chords.

Thompson It is fitting that from among the beautiful and romantic
homes of the past a few should be preserved as shrines, reminders
of the incidents that made them famous, monuments of culture
and richness of life in days that are gone. Among the scenes
of domestic life so preserved none is more closely entwined
with the tandrils of romance than that one known as "My Old
Kentucky Home." This afternoon we bring you in song, story,
and drama some high lights in the history of this famous old
home. The script is written by Miss Frances Richards and Dr.
Earl A. Moore, both of our Department of English. A number
of faculty members and students will participate. But now,
let us surrender ourselves to the spirit of the past.

Strings "My Old Kentucky Home." (1 stanza and chorus)

(Automobile horn)

(Sound of car in motion continuing until arrival)

Son (Billy Ray Taylor) What's the name of the next town, Dad?

Mr. Tourist (William Cox) Bardstown.

Mrs. Tourist (Dorine Hawke) Bardstown, Kentucky. Is there anything worth seeing there?

Mr. T. Yes, several things according to the guide book. You know those signs we've been seeing for the last hour "Visit My Old Kentucky Home State Park." Well, that's one thing.

Daughter (Jean Hill) Is that the "old Kentucky home" we sing about in the song?

Mr. T. Yes, dear, that's the one.

Son Oh, I'd like to see that.

(Automobile horn)

Mrs. T. We can spare time to visit it, can't we?

Mr. T. Certainly. We wouldn't want to miss the scene of such a famous song. I think it's out a short distance from the town.

(Automobile horn)

Well, here we are in Bardstown all right. I wonder which way we turn. Please, mister, which way to the "Old Kentucky Home"?

Moore (in distance) Turn left at the Court House. It's about a mile out.

Mr. T. Thank you.

Daughter (sings) "The sun shines bright on my old Kentucky home: 'Tis summer, the darkies are gay." The sun shines bright all right, and the darkies ought to be gay if there are any around.

Son I'd like to see "Old Black Joe."

Mrs. T. I don't doubt he's dead before now.

Son There's the place to turn in.

Daughter I see the house up there among the trees.

Mrs. T. There is a gentleman coming out to the drive. I suppose he can tell us about the place.

Guide (Earl A. Moore) Welcome to "Old Kentucky Home." You have not been here before?

Mr. T. No, sir, and we wish to know all about it.

Guide Please get out of the car, and I will explain things to you. "Old Kentucky Home" is the name of the old John Rowan home, named by the original owner and founder "Federal Hill!"

Mr. T Who was John Rowan ?

Guide One of the most colorful characters in the pioneer history of Kentucky and perhaps one of the ablest lawyers the state has produced. As a boy he knew every phase of pioneer life, having come with his father, Captain William Rowan, and family from Pennsylvania soon after the American Revolution.

Son I'll bet there were Indians in Kentucky then.

Guide Yes, indeed, sonny. On one occasion when the Rowans and some friends were floating down the Ohio River in a boat, the Indians attacked the party about nine o'clock at night.

Son Gee, what happened?

Guide First it was discovered that the Indians had camp fires for half ^a mile along the river bank. Captain Rowan hoped to float by silently, since he realized that the savages completely outnumbered the occupants of the boat. But suddenly a war whoop was raised by the Indians, and for a while the situation seemed desperate.

Daughter Were some of the people in the boat women?

Guide Yes, several of them. When Judge Rowan was an old man, he spoke of the heroic courage of his mother upon that occasion. She arose from her seat, and saying not a word to anybody, she collected all the axes, placed one by each person, and then sat in perfect composure.

Son Did the Rowans get past the Indian camp all right?

Guide Yes, sonny, because of the darkness.

Mr. T. Who first owned the site of the "Old Kentucky Home"?

Guide The original land grant to the property was made to Captain William Lytle, under the authority of George III. Lytle was the father of John Rowan's wife. The land was later deeded to Rowan, who about 1800 built the house, calling the place "Federal Hill."

Mrs. T. No doubt there were stirring days here.

Guide Yes, indeed. One of the most interesting happenings in the lifetime of Judge Rowan was the duel he fought with a young Dr. Chambers. It was one of the most talked-of duels in the days when dueling was the accepted way for gentlemen to settle their differences on the field of honor.

Son What caused the duel?

Guide One evening-- it was the 29th of January, 1801-- when Rowan was about twenty-five, he, Dr. Chambers, Judge Bibb and some other men were playing cards in McClean's Tavern in Bardstown.

Strings "Alouette." (14 seconds)

(Confused murmur of voices)

Chambers (Gordon Wilson) Well, Rowan, why don't you play. It 's your turn.

Rowan (M.C.Ford) Confound you, doctor, give me a card.

Chambers I will, Mr. Rowan, as soon as I can.

Rowan I see you can't play cards any better than you can read Latin. You can't dispute with me on that.

Chambers Yes, I can, with you or with any other man.

Rowan That's not so, doctor, you know you can't equal me in either Latin or Greek.

(Confused murmur of voices and then words distinguishable)

Voices Now, gentlemen,--- Take it easy,--- Be careful---

(Rowan's voice) --- Liar

(Sounds of scuffle)

Voices Separate them - - - Gentlemen, be reasonable -- Sit down.

(Hubbub subsides)

Chambers Mr. Rowan, I demand a settlement on the field of honor.

You have insulted me. I shall send you a challenge shortly.

Major Bullock will represent me.

Rowan If you choose to send me a challenge, it will be given consideration. I ask Judge Bibb to represent me.

(Murmur of voices)

Strings "Sarabande."

(Sound of horses' hoofs)

Bibb (J. Reid Sterrett) Well, this is Jacob Yoder's plantation, the place we agreed on. Major Bullock, shall we all dismount?

Bullock (Robert Reithel) We may as well, Judge Bibb. This is the place.

(Rustle of dismounting)

Rowan I am going to remove my greatcoat.

Chambers So am I.

Bibb Major Bullock, let us proceed with the arrangements.

Bullock What a pity, Judge Bibb, that this affair cannot
be prevented. Can't we find some way to accommodate matters?

Bibb Only if Dr. Chambers will withdraw his challenge.

Bullock He will not do that. He has said that if Mr. Rowan
did not accept his challenge, he would publish him as a
coward in every newspaper in the state.

Bibb Then we must proceed. What is to be the distance?

Bullock The usual distance -- ten steps.

Bibb And, as we have agreed, the principals will stand with
their backs to each other until the word is given; then they
will face each other and fire at will.

Bullock Right. I'll step off the distance. One, two, three,
four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten. You here, Dr. Chambers.

Bibb And you here, Mr. Rowan.

Bullock Gentlemen, are you ready?

Rowan Yes.

Chambers I am.

Bullock Fire.

(Two pistol shots three seconds apart)

Bibb Are you hurt?

Chambers No.

Rowan I am not.

Chambers I am sorry for it.

Rowan Well, try it again.

Chambers Agreed.

Bibb Turn around, gentlemen. Fire.

(Two pistol shots)

Bullock The doctor is wounded. He is falling.

Bibb (After slight pause) Can you find the wound?

Bullock Not yet. - - - Here it is, under the left arm. It is not bleeding much.

Rowan I am sorry. I suppose there is no further use for me.

Bullock No, sir.

Rowan Dr. Chambers, I pledge on my honor to serve you in any way I can. May I send my carriage for you?

Chambers No, thank you.

Strings "Fairy Tale." (11 seconds)

Mr. T. Did Dr. Chambers die of his wound?

Guide Yes, sir, and as a consequence this duel made a profound impression upon the people of the state. The persons concerned in it were young and very prominent. Public opinion against dueling developed, and it is thought that Kentucky's anti-dueling law of several years later was partly due to the Rowan - Chambers tragedy.

Rowan served seven terms in the Kentucky legislature, was secretary of state of Kentucky, served a term in Congress, was chief justice of the Kentucky Court of Appeals, and was a United State senator.

Mrs. T What's this? A family burial ground? "John Rowan"!

So this is the old statesman's grave.

Guide Yes, Judge Rowan and his wife together with some of their children and grandchildren are buried here.

"There is perhaps no other private burial ground in Kentucky ,or in the nation, wherein so much distinction and romance are assembled for the last sleep as are assembled at the 'Old Kentucky Home.' "

Son Look, Father ! Several of the dates when they died are the same. How did that happen?

Guide A terrible cholera epidemic which swept Kentucky more than a century ago. The Rowan family suffered greatly. Bishop Flaget of the famous St. Joseph's Cathedral at Bardstown, stayed faithfully by them with his physical and spiritual ministrations. Judge Rowan found his presence a great comfort.

Strings "Polonaise."

Rowan Bishop Flaget, the hand of P_rovidence is hard upon us. Two sons taken from me in one day ! And a daughter-in-law ! And a granddaughter ! Four members of one household snatched by the Grim Reaper in one day !

Flaget (Earl A. Moore) Yes, Judge Rowan, but there is One who can comfort in every crisis. To Him I commend you.

Rowan Bishop Flaget, for your services to me and to my family, for your aid in nursing us as you have done for days, you have my undying gratitude.

(Wails and groans of slaves heard in distance, continuing)

Slave woman (Dorine Hawke) (Screaming) Oh, mercy, mercy, Marse John ! My las' chile done died.

Rowan Yes, Jennie, I know. All of us, white and black alike, are sorely smitten. Bishop, that makes fourteen of my slaves who

have died within a week.

Flaget Judge Rowan, I have just come from your little granddaughter, Eliza Harney.. I believe she will live; I think she has passed the crisis.

Rowan God be praised!

Strings "Chorale."

Daughter Did you say Harney? I see the name John Milton Harney on one of the tombstones. Who was he?

Guide He was Kentucky's first poet of wide reputation. He married Judge Rowan's eldest daughter, Eliza. She was a great inspiration to him in his poetic work.

Strings "Aria."

Mrs. Harney (Mabel Thacher) My dear husband, come and sit by me here under this arbor and enjoy the lovely moonlight.

Dr. Harney (Kelly Thompson) Eliza, dear, how fortunate I am that after finishing my medical course in Pennsylvania I came here to Kentucky. You see that's how I met you.

Mrs. Harney And I'm right glad too, for that's how I met you.

Dr. Harney Yet, Eliza, I don't know whether I'm fitted for a doctor's life. You see, I'm somewhat visionary. I like music and I like poetry. Now there's my brother William-- a distinguished general in the United States Army. But I could never be anything like that.

Mrs. Harney But doctor, while your brother can fight, you can write. And just think! Some of your poems are being read right now even in Europe. I'm proud of you! John, I want

to hear again your poem about the Whippowill.

Dr. Harney All right, dear.

There is a strange, mysterious bird,
Which few have seen, but all have heard:
He sits upon a fallen tree,
Through all the night, and thus sings he:
Whippowill!
Whippowill!
Whippowill!

Oh, had I but his voice and wings,
I'd envy not a bird that sings;
But gladly would I flit away,
And join the wild nocturnal lay:
Whippowill!

How blest I---Nor loneliness nor state
Nor fame, nor wealth, nor love, nor hate,
Nor av'rice, nor ambition vain,
Should e'er disturb my tranquil strain:
Whippowill!
Whippowill!
Whippowill!

Strings "Aria."

Guide Mrs. Harney did not long survive to be an inspiration to
her poet husband. And he soon followed her.

At the death of Judge Rowan, in 1843, a tradition began-- a
tradition which is perpetuated in this home, which has become a
shrine. The mourning for his death, particularly the lamenta-
tions of the slaves, found expression in a song composed by
a young cousin of his, Stephen Collins Foster, who occasionally
visited the Rowans.

Strings and Chorus "Massa's in the Cold, Cold Ground."

Guide The will left by Judge Rowan is a most interesting
document. You will see it presently when you go into the house.
When its contents were revealed in the court, it was found to
contain some rather startling provisions.

Strings "Sarabande."

John Doe (Brice McEuen) May it please the court, I have here the will of Judge John Rowan, which I submit to your honor for probation.

Judge (Zack Hill) Have the witnesses been summoned ?

John Doe Yes, your honor, they are here.

Judge I shall then proceed with the reading of the will:

"By this writing, which is my last will and testament, I hereby convey all the estate, real, personal and mixed, legal and equitable of which I shall die possessed."

"There is to be no monument, nor to be placed over my grave any tombstone. In this sentiment I am emphatic and it must not be violated. There is no pride among the dead."

"My dueling pistols I bequeath to my son John, and at his death to his oldest son. They are to be used by neither but when their honor imperatively demands and in that case I know they will be held steadily."

"My gold spectacles I leave to my son John, with the wish that he live to wear them longer than I have done and to read more with them."

Strings "Sarabande."

Mrs. T. If Rowan forbade the erection of a tombstone, his relatives must have disregarded that provision of the will.

Guide He relented before his death and said that his family might erect a tombstone, although he did not actually change the clause in the will.

John Rowan, Jr., to whom the property was left, has been called "the ideal of the chivalrous Kentucky gentleman."

And now, that you are ready to enter the house, I shall leave you. The hostess will be glad to explain everything to you when you go inside.

Mr. T. Thank you.

Hostess (Frances Richards) Come right in.

Mrs. T. So this is the "Old Kentucky Home." What a charming home it is! Is this the way it looked when the Rowans live here?

Hostess Yes, so far as can be ascertained. Nearly all of the furnishings are the original ones.

Mr. T. By the way, we were told outside that Rowan named this place "Federal Hill." Why was it changed to the "Old Kentucky Home"?

Hostess The song is responsible for that. During his visits to the Rowans, Stephen Collins Foster liked to spend much of his time in dreamy reverie. Among the products of his musical genius under the spell of this home are such songs as his "Beautiful Dreamer."

Evans (baritone) "Beautiful Dreamer."

Hostess Foster found the hospitality of the young Mr. Rowan and his wife very alluring, and his presence was equally attractive to them. He composed the most famous of his songs while visiting Mr. and Mrs. Rowan.

Strings "Sewanee River."

Rowan, Jr. (Ray Logan) Rebecca, our cousin Stephen is an interesting young fellow. Our Southern manners our Southern customs,

even our Southern drawl have always seemed to charm him.
I remember that as a lad he visited us before Father's
death, and he never ceased to be a source of interest
to Father.

Rebecca (Mrs. T.C. Cherry) Yes, John, the South has a great
charm for him, particularly the home life of the South. I
was delighted with those lines he read to us about our home,
calling it the "old Kentucky home." I hope he will soon
set them to music. He seems to be in a specially dreamy
mood today. There he comes now. Let's slip out this other
door and not disturb him.

(Door closes)

Foster (J.B. Galloway) How entrancing this beautiful old home is, with
its hospitality and its charm --- with everything that means
home---a Southern home. Who would not yield to its spell?
I wish I had a tune for my lines about "my old Kentucky home."
I think I have it now. I can almost hear it.

A single soprano voice begins in the distance. One
by one other voices and stringed instruments join and come
nearer, so that the song ends with full chorus and strings,
in full volume)

Moore

"And the song went out on every wind
To every land and clime,
Went, as only a deathless thing
Can go, through space and time, ---

Through barriers of din and doubt
Across the yearning years:
And palace door and pauper wall
Equally to its strain are thrall
For every heart is homesick
Sometimes and fain for tears."

These are the words of Cale Young Rice on the occasion
of the dedication of the "Old Kentucky Home" as a state park.

Mr. T. So this is the birthplace of Foster's "My Old Kentucky Home."

Was this younger Rowan in politics as his father was?

Hostess Yes, to some extent. He was a lawyer, served a term in
the legislature, and was minister to Naples. This home witnessed
many a festive occasion in his lifetime.

Strings "Tioga Waltz," with murmur of voices, to represent
a party. (20 seconds)

Hostess The last owner of the home was Mrs. Madge Rowan
Frost, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Rowan, Jr. In 1923
in recognition of Stephen Foster and his tribute to Kentucky,
the state acquired this shrine by action of the General Assembly.
On March 12, 1920, the proposition had been acted on by the
Senate of Kentucky.

Strings "My Old Kentucky Home."

Harris (C.H. Vanmeter) Mr. President.

President (George V. Page) The gentleman from Woodford.

Harris I report House Resolution No. 42 from the Committee on
Rules.

President The clerk will read the resolution.

Clerk (Paul Davis) "Whereas, said place is where Stephen Collins

Foster wrote the immortal song, 'My Old Kentucky Home;' and,

Whereas, it would be highly appropriate for the state of Kentucky to acquire the said home and the lands belonging to the same, together with the furnishings, in order to properly preserve and keep the same, as a memorial; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky that the governor be empowered to appoint a commission of five persons to secure an option on and to acquire 'Federal Hill.' "

Smith (Jack Owens) Mr. President.

President The gentleman from Mercer.

Smith I move that the resolution be concurred in.

President The clerk will call the roll.

Clerk Antle.

Antle (Roy Vance) Aye.

Clerk Atwood.

Atwood (Zack Hill) Aye.

Clerk Baker.

Baker (Roy Vance) Aye.

Clerk Branstetter.

Branstetter (Jack Owen) Aye.

Strings "My Old Kentucky Home."

Hostess Since 1923 the Home has been visited by thousands

of persons ,who have been charmed by the shady grove
of stalwart oaks that adorn the gentle slopes of the
lawn, by the fragrance of the flower garden near the
kitchen door, by the airy, spacious rooms with the many
objects that speak of a bygone day. Throughout the nation,
and indeed in many places abroad, "My Old Kentucky Home "
is known and loved.

Strings " College Heights," fading for:

Thompson And so concludes the seventieth in this series
of programs coming to you each Tuesday from the campus of
Western^Teachers C_Ollege in B_Owling Green.

Script for today's program was written by Miss Frances
Richards and Dr. Earl Moore. Participating in the presenta-
tion were members of the faculty: Dr. Gordon Wilson, Dr.
M.C. Ford, J. Reid Sterrett, Kelly Thompson, Miss Frances
Richards , Mrs. T.C.Cherry, George V. Page and Dr. Earl Moore,
and students: William Cox, Dorine Hawke, Robert Reithel, Mabel
Thacher, Brice McEuen, Zack Hill, Ray Logan, J.B. Galloway,
Paul Davis, John Owens, Clyde Van Metre, Billy Ray Taylor and
Jean Hill. Music was furnished by our studio ensemble under
the direction of Chester N. Channon. C. O. Evans, Jr., was the
soloist.

You are invited to tune in again next Tuesday.

And so goodbye until next Tuesday at 3:30 C.S.T. We
wish you Life M_Ore Life.

(Strings up and continue)